

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7: 03p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr. , Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor , Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following modifications:

Additions:

2.4. Mr. Lloyd Blackwell

2.5. Tree Concerns in the City

5.9. Clerk's Evaluation

It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to approve the agenda with additions to Presentation and New Business. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. G.S. Proctor & Associates-Lobbying Services

- Ms. Sims stated that G.S. Proctor and Associates can assist the City in the following areas. Initiatives with Department of Housing and Community Development, Pepco, Tax Credit Incentives.

- Mr. Proctor stated that he could assist the City with the P3 projects and assist the City with a Bond Bill.
- Councilman Yeargin asked Mr. Proctor if he knew the figures that the City needed for the projects.
- Mr. Proctor stated that with the P3 projects it is no lose and everyone is a winner in the process.
- Mr. Proctor stated that they are assisting the neighbors in Charles County with the P3 project.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he would like to see the numbers for the CDBG go back to the way it was.
- Mr. Proctor stated that he could assist the City in that area.
- Mr. Proctor stated that they changed the process to include grants.
- Mr. Proctor stated that we have some good players in Maryland.
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2.2. Shepherd Construction-

- Crystal Faison, President
- They introduced Efficient Energy Services in 2010.
- The residents in PG County are not familiar with the energy program in the state.
- They will go into the resident home for 20 minutes to 1 hour and half to conduct the quick energy check.
- They will provide the resident with power strips, shower head fixtures, tank covers, and light bulbs.
- The low flow shower head will help reduce the water and energy. Residents have saved \$25-\$30 per month.
- They attend HOA and Condo Associations meetings, and churches.
- They are certified energy analysts and she has conducted the energy audits in Prince George's County.
- Council President Porter stated that some of the infrastructures are old, and they will need to meet with homeowners to provide them with the cost effectiveness on energy.
- Council President Porter stated that any program that will assist the residents in savings and cost is a benefit.
- Councilwoman Simms wanted to know if the program had any qualifying criteria.
- Ms. Faison stated that any person that has an active account with Pepco qualifies for the program.

- Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know how she could get in contact with Ms. Faison to have her come out to speak with the residents.
 - The Comprehensive Program Energy Audit will take about 2-5 hours to diagnose what's going on in the home. Pepco will reimburse the homeowner up to \$2,000. They look at the health and safety of the home.
 - Ms. Faison stated that they will educate, and ensure that you are safe and then save money.
 - Mr. Ashton requested information on the LED lighting and the new light bulb. They recommend the 13 WATT bulb oppose to the 60 WATT.
 - The request for the energy consumption to 15% for the State by Governor O'Malley, the state is around 9%.
 - Ms. Faison is willing to come to every meeting, if the Council desires.
 - The Pepco program will give you money to replace your refrigerator, freezer, Humidifier, etc.
 - Ms. Faison will be releasing another energy letter in the next few days.
- 2.3. Sprint, Joe O'Donnell, Ronald Murphy, Steve Kronthal
- Sprint was operating three system and they have eliminated the Nextel Network.
 - They have been going through the process of changing the system around.
 - Mr. O'Donnell identified the towers and coverage in the City.
 - The closest site/tower has been upgraded to 4G with Ethernet running to the site.
 - The speed of the networks will be fine in the City with the towers.
 - Mr. O'Donnell stated that he looked at the City bill and the city is currently getting the 25% Wiska discount.
 - The concern he has on the iPad plan is that we are on the 3G plan. We need to consider the polling plan. We had an increase in the last two months and to revise the plan we could save \$50-\$90 per month.
 - Councilmember Yeargin stated that he lives off of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and he has problems with his phone.
 - Councilmember Yeargin stated that he is between a lot of power lines.
 - Mr. Murphy stated that the system will continue to improve as the phases of the new plans are complete.
 - Councilwoman Simms wanted to know if this was the best plan for the City with regards to the cost.
 - Councilwoman Simms stated that she feels that the Council does not understand the amount of data that is allotted to the plans.

- Mr. Murphy stated that it is a gap between the account team. They will conduct a rate plan analysis.
 - Mr. Kronthal stated that the newer plans will benefit the City.
 - Mr. O'Donnell stated that they are conducting the analysis on the dropped calls.
 - Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know why the phones need to be reset.
 - Mr. O'Donnell stated that it is a device issue, as to why the telephones need to be reset. They will verify if the telephones have the latest software.
 - Council President Porter stated that we are interested in upgrading our current cellular devices.
 - They will come out next Monday, July 8, 2013 at 6:00p.m. to conduct the iPad demonstration.
- 2.4. Mr. Lloyd Blackwell**
- Stated that his father Mr. Frank Blackwell passed last Friday, June 28, 2013 at Adventist Hospital.
 - They would like to celebrate his life and include the Mayor and Council.
 - The viewing will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2013 at Pope Funeral Home, the Wake will begin at 10:00am and the funeral will be at noon.
- 2.5. Tree Concerns in the City**
- Ms. Andrews stated that the growing concern in the City with regards to the storm and trees hanging on the properties of another.
 - Ms. Andrews stated that if we could have a company identified to assist with the removal of trees in the City.
 - Ms. Andrews stated that we do not have any codes on the books to assist with addressing the concern.
 - Ms. Andrews stated that some of the trees in concern in the City belongs to the City.
 - Councilmember Higgs stated that he agrees with the Code Enforcement Officer regarding having an expert to address the concern. The expert will provide recommendations that will not affect the tree.
 - Council Yeargin requested for the Code Enforcement Officer to provide her request in writing to assist the Council in making a decision.
 - Council President Porter stated that when the Council implements a law we need to be sure that it is covered.
 - Ms. Andrews stated that she will revisit with Mt. Rainier on any concerns they had regarding the language on the expert.

- Councilwoman Simms wanted to know the work of the Tree expert be conducted in the City. Please advise if the Tree expert will be riding throughout the City to look at all the trees. Please spell out the reasonable amount of time.
- Councilmember Raynor inquired if the County had an Ordinance regarding the tree concerns.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she had a problem with the neighbor tree on their property. They contacted several companies for them to provide free estimates. They spoke with the neighbor and provided them with the estimates. The insurance company would like to know if the concern had been addressed with the neighbor.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he will be bringing tree information he has in his County Office to Ms. Andrews.

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. Resolution R-14-01 Approval of Seat Pleasant Recreation Council

- It was the consensus of the Council to postpone the reading of the Resolution to Monday, July 8, 2013.
- Mayor Grant had stated there are residents in the City interested in forming a Recreation Council.
- Mayor Grant stated that he has been in conversation with the Parks & Recreation regarding the City forming a Recreation Council.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Park & Recreation stated that the process has changed with regards to the way Recreation Councils are formed. If the City passes a Resolution to identify a Recreation Council, it would not be recognized by Parks & Recreation.

4. REPORTS:

4.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant stated that his report will be brief, as Mr. Blackwell has passed.
- Mayor Grant stated that Former Councilman Bill Gray passed in London at a Tennis match.
- Mayor Grant stated that he thanks Former Mayor Blackwell and Councilman Gray, as he stands on their shoulders.
- Mayor Grant stated that he has received a report from Park & Planning regarding the Aberdeen project.
- Mayor Grant stated that we have the City Center project, which maybe a 100 Million dollar project.

- Mayor Grant stated that we are moving forward with the projects on Martin Luther King Junior Highway.
- Mayor Grant stated that the project on Central Avenue by Dr. Baig will not be moving forward.
- Mayor Grant stated that he is talking to an investment group to come in to purchase the property and agree to annex the property into the City. This will increase our tax roll and expand job opportunities.
- Council President Porter referenced two events in the City regarding Kevin Durant with twelve companies and sixty media outlets in the Activity Center.
- Council President Porter stated that another event was held today in the City where Kevin Durant contributed \$150,000 at which \$50,000 was given to the Seat Pleasant Activity Center. This was a branding opportunity.
- Council President Porter thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing the events to be held in the City.
- Councilmember Raynor stated that the event was held on Thursday, June 27, 2013 was aired by CNN
- Council President Porter stated that the City recognized Tarus Brown with a Certificate of Appreciation from the City.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that it would have been nice for the Council to know the events were being held.
- Council President Porter stated that the banner was unveiled to Kevin Durant on Thursday, June 27, 2013. It moved Mr. Durant to see the banner along with some of the children.

4.2. City Administrator Report:

- Mr. Ashton stated that his report is brief and he would like to agree with Mayor Grant on the eulogy of Former Mayor Blackwell.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the Former Mayor Blackwell had hired him and he was happy that he visited him last year.
- Mr. Ashton stated that we were successful in opening a door with Pepco to trim some of the trees in the City in the month of July.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the Carrington Avenue project will begin late summer with regards to the water issue.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the work for WSSC and the rights of Passage was sent over to the City Attorney for review.

- Mr. Ashton stated that an RFP was advertised for the City landline and they received one response. They would like to resubmit the RFP for the Cellular and landline.
- Mr. Ashton stated that some of the employees had an reaction and they are conducting an environmental study on the building.
- Mr. Ashton stated that Auto Zone will allow the City employees to receive a discount on their purchases.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the Seat Pleasant Elementary School had responded to the request on the Farmers Market. They would like detailed information on the event.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the finance and budget committee will be meeting next Wednesday, July 11, 2013 to finalize the computerization of the Finance Department.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the FY2014 Approved Budget will be on the website on Wednesday, July 3, 2013.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he provided the City Council with an electronic copy of the FY2014 Budget, which will be on the website.
- Councilwoman Simms requested a hard copy of the budget.

4.3. Council Committee Report

- **The Council Committee did not have any reports for the month of June.**

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Council Budget Review for FY2014

- Mr. Ashton stated that he will be reviewing the Council section of the budget.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the only changes in the budget are the Cost of Living Increase, Training and the Supplies

5.2. Review of Proposed FY2014 Strategic Plan

- Mr. Ashton stated the City Council needs to meet to go over the Strategic Plan.
- Councilmember Yeargin suggested that the City Council meet on Friday, July 12, 2013 or July 19, 2013
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the City Council needs to meet to go over the plan without Ms. Rhim.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that during the Strategic Workshop they reviewed the plan from last year and included new ideas for the next year.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that she was not aware that the plan was going to be changed

- Mayor Grant stated that the Strategic Plan is a living document and the some of the timelines had passed and the items were not complete.
- Councilmember Raynor stated we did not revise, but updated the plan.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the group reviewed the plan with regards to what was not completed.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that it is easy to have the facilitator in the meeting to ensure that we understand the document this time.

5.3. Energy Grant Required Policies

- Mr. Ashton stated Energy grant request for the policies approval.
- Mr. Ashton asked if the Council would approve the policies by Resolution.
- It was the consensus of the Council to approve a resolution at the Public Session on Monday, July 8, 2013.

5.4. Request Approval of Ward II Resident Yard Sale

- Councilwoman Stephenson had requested for the City to waive the fee for the Yard Sale for the residents in Ward II.
- The Yard Sale will be held on August 10, 2013 or August 12, 2013.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she has the School approval to use the site.
- Councilwoman Stephenson is requesting to use table and chairs from the City.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she will be responsible for moving the table and chairs.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that they are putting together a Community event for Ward II.
- Mayor Grant inquired of Councilwoman Stephenson how does she propose that this request be addressed in the future. The request is setting a precedent.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are using Seat Pleasant resources, which is unethical and illegal.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the residents can bring their own table and chairs for the Flea Market.
- Councilwoman Stephenson that we can look at the legislation again to see if we need to make amendment.
- Councilman Yeargin stated that the law cannot be changed unless a Resolution is introduced to amend the law. We cannot waive the law.
- Councilmember Porter stated the request is discriminatory.
- Mayor Grant stated that it could be opened up to the entire City.

- Council President Porter stated that we could conduct the request, as the City does for the Citywide Clean-up.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that we could have a City Yard Sale and the first 25 application fees are waived.
- It was the consensus of the Council for the request to go into Governmental Affairs & Technology Committee.

5.6. Farmers Market Review

- Councilwoman Simms stated that the Farmers Market look likes it is not going to happen.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that it took a long time for Ms. Barnes to call her back.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that Ms. Barnes was informed that she could not work on the Farmers Market, as someone else will be working on the market.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that she would like to have the committee pass the information onto Ms. Sanders, as what was done.
- Council President Porter stated that he met with Mr. Nicholson and he had come into the City to meet with Mr. Ashton.
- Council President Porter stated that he has not been able to get in contact with him. The City Clerk had telephoned him and he has not returned her call.
- Mr. Nicholson is willing to take over the Farmers Market.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that we will set-up a meeting with Ms. Barnes and Ms. Sanders to pass the information on.

5.7. Council Chambers Usage Request for WMATA Meeting

- Mr. Ashton stated that the Metro would like to use Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 23, 2013.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he would open and lock the doors after the meeting.
- It was motioned by Council Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the request of Metro to use Council Chambers on July 23, 2013. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

5.8. Council Recess

- Council President Porter inquired if the City Council wanted to recess in August.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Resolution for Monday, July 8, 2013 for the recess in the month of August. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

5.9. Clerks Evaluation

- Council President Porter had requested for the Clerk's evaluation to be sent to the City Council electronically and place a hard copy in the Council mailbox.
- The City Council must turn in the completed evaluation on Monday, July 8, 2013.
- The Council President will be compile the evaluation and submit the compiled report on July 11, 2013.
- The City Council will meet with the City Clerk on July 12, 2013 at 5:00p.m.

5.9A. Reverend Flowers Event

- Council President Porter asked the City Council if they would be interested in attending the event for Reverend Flowers.
- Council President Porter asked Mr. Ashton if the monies could be deducted from the constituency fund if the Council desired to attend.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the event is a community event and it can be deducted.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that she would be providing a donation to the church.
- Council President Porter stated that he would be attending the event.

5.10. Vehicle Maintenance

- Councilmember Kennedy stated that the Department of Public Works has a concern with regards to the repairs.
- Councilman Yeargin inquired if it was a budget expense.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the employees with the changes in the adjustment with responsibility need to receive a letter that they will sign acknowledging receipt of the changes.
- Councilwoman Simms inquired if the employees are using gas cards.
- Mayor Grant stated that they are using numbers, which are associated with the vehicle.
- Mayor Grant stated that Public Works Department shares a number to fill up the trucks.
- Mr. Ashton recommended that they revise the system to a thumb print.
- Council President Porter stated that the Vehicle Maintenance report will be placed in the Budget and Finance Committee.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1. Updated on City Administrator Position

- Council President Porter provided the City Council with the preliminary back ground check of Randy Roberts.
- Council President Porter stated that it was three candidates in the running and one of the candidates accepted another position.
- Council President Porter stated that he will forward the letter from Lazardo.
- Council President Porter stated that we had a back up just in case something was to happen.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that his criminal background looks great and his education background is impeccable.
- It was motioned by Councilwoman Stephenson and seconded by Councilwoman Simms to hire Mr. Robertson as the City Administrator pending complete background check. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.
- Council President Porter had requested for the City Clerk to have Ms. Hayes contact Mr. Robertson to offer him the position and arrange a date for Mr. Robertson to meet with the Council.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT

7.1. Public Session, Monday, July 8, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

7.2. PGCMA Meeting, Thursday, July 18, 2013, location **TBD**

7.3. Ward II Community Meeting, Thursday, July 25, 2013, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:00pm-8:00pm

7.4. NLC-National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Annual Summer Conference, July 31-August 3, 2013, Milwaukee, WI REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR HOTEL AND CONFERENCE IS JULY 8, 2013.

ADJOURN-The meeting adjourned at 10:32pm

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk